

LIFESTYLES

HAWAII MARINE B SECTION

MARCH 9, 2007



Gary Sinise plays his bass guitar while singer Jeff Vezain jams to the music in the background. The Lt. Dan Band played a variety of tunes during a three-hour performance in front of a large crowd at Pop Warner Field aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Saturday. The band has performed at more than 40 military bases in the last three years.

Lt. Dan Band entertains military community

Four-year-old Kayla Dow, daughter of Petty Officer 1st Class Peter Dow, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 24, claps along to music played by the Lt. Dan Band. Dow, along with a group of other girls, had the opportunity to go on stage during the performance of "Lady Marmalade."



Story by
Sgt. Michelle M. Dickson
Media Chief

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Press Chief

The strong midday heat wasn't enough to discourage service members and their families from turning out to enjoy the many diverse tunes of the Lt. Dan Band Saturday afternoon at Pop Warner Field aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

The band included Gary Sinise as bass guitarist, who is probably most well known for his portrayal of Lt. Dan in the movie "Forrest Gump," a film for which he was nominated for an Oscar for best supporting actor in 1994.

Sinise can now be seen on the television show "CSI: New York." During his time off screen, he travels to different military bases with his band, playing for the troops in the U.S. and foreign countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I think I've been to at least 40 or 50 bases in the last three years alone," said Sinise, a native of Blue Island, Ill. "I hit as many bases as I can and try to sit down and have a meal with the troops.

They need to know that they're appreciated and not forgotten."

Sinise began traveling to different bases on his own but soon asked the USO if he would be able to take a band with him. They complied.

That's when Sinise spoke with his long-time friend and Vietnam veteran Kimo Williams, who was happy to help get a band together and begin traveling to different bases. Sinise played bass for years with Williams, who had been playing guitar and singing since he was in the Army.

The Lt. Dan Band plays everything from Springsteen and Linkin Park, to Aretha Franklin and Jimi Hendrix. Fans were invited to join on stage during the performance, so the entire show was interactive.

"I thought it was great when I saw how the band would just randomly pull up a bunch of the audience to the stage and really get them involved," said Cpl. Leeann Gutkowski, adminis-

trative clerk, deployments section, Hawaii Installation Personnel Administration Center. "It's nice to know that there are people out there who want to spend what little free time they have supporting the troops and their families.

The whole band seemed to really enjoy what they were doing instead of feeling like they had to be there."

According to Sinise, the band members think they are lucky to have people willing to volunteer for the armed services.

"I remember all too well how Vietnam veterans were treated when they came back from the war," said Sinise. "Service members would feel ashamed for being in uniform. We never want that to happen again.

They are not going to go unappreciated."

Sinise said wherever he or the band may be performing, the troops' spirits are always high.

"Wherever I go, they're happy," said Sinise. "I've found the morale of the troops is always high, no matter what they may be dealing with."

The next stop for the Lt. Dan Band is Twentynine Palms, Calif.



Guitar player Kimo Williams cracks a smile after his introduction given by Gary Sinise. Williams, who was previously in the Army, and Sinise are the creators of the Lt. Dan Band.



The crowd claps along to a song during the performance Saturday. Throughout the day's event approximately 1,500 were present for the concert.

Squad leader prepares for tour in Iraq

Cpl. Rick Nelson
Combat Correspondent

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — Some service members promise themselves they'll never go back to a combat zone after they return to the U.S., but one Marine stationed aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe bay said his tour gets better every time.

Sergeant Anthony M. Charpentier Jr., squad leader, 1st Squad, Combined Anti-Armor Team 2, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, has been deployed to Iraq twice and is on his way back this month for a third tour – this time as an infantryman.

"I joined the Marines June 30, 1997, and wanted to be in the infantry, but my mother really didn't want me to so I signed up for logistics," said the native of Biscoe, N.C. "I guess I wanted a challenge and to be able to say I've done something that not a lot of people have done – so I joined the Marine Corps."

Although he said his mother was not happy with his decision to join the Marine Corps, his father felt differently.

"My dad was all for it and said it would be good for me because I needed to grow up," he added. "You always hear about the Marines being the most respectable, so I figured if I'm going to join the military, I might as well go all out."

Originally, Charpentier said he wanted to go to college using programs offered by the Marine Corps, signing up as a reservist. After one week in his reserve unit, he decided he wanted to go on active duty.

"I checked into my first duty station with 8th Engineer Support Battalion at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and was then stationed with 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment at Twentynine

Palms, California, where I was deployed to Iraq in 2004 and supported Operation Phantom Fury and again in 2006 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 5-7," he explained.

After approximately seven years in the logistics field, Charpentier decided to follow his heart and make a lateral move to the infantry field.

"I was married when I decided it was time for me to finally be in the infantry," said the 28-year-old. "My wife didn't like the idea but was very supportive of my decision, because she knew it was something that I've wanted to do for a really long time."

Charpentier said a lot of his friends inspired him to make the change, because it seemed like the infantry had a lot more to offer him.

"At first, I did a lot of on-the-job training and then finally got a seat at the School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, California," he added. "I've loved it ever since."

"The camaraderie I have with my Marines is the best I've ever had, and you get so close to your guys that you realize you have a lot of similarities – to the point where we consider each other brothers," said Charpentier.

"In my opinion, family comes first and the Marine Corps comes second, because it is your livelihood. But when you deploy, the Marine Corps becomes your family and is the family that will bring you home to your family and loved ones."

The father of two said he gets moral support from his family and is comforted in knowing they will be there when he returns from deployments.

"My wife and kids are what keeps me going when I'm deployed," he said. "My family is always on my mind. When I'm in between mis-



Cpl. Rick Nelson

Sergeant Anthony M. Charpentier Jr., squad leader, 1st Squad, Combined Anti-Armor Team 2, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, stands next to his humvee at his forward operating base during the final exercise of Mojave Viper at Twentynine Palms, Calif., Feb. 27. Charpentier originally joined the Marine Corps in the logistics job field, but after seven years did a lateral move into infantry.

sions and get downtime and can sit and think about my wife and kids or look at their pictures – that's the greatest feeling. I can't really compare it to anything else."

The Iraq war veteran added that communicating with his family is going to be what gets him through his unit's upcoming deployment.

"I look forward to going back to Iraq, because we do a lot of good things out there – like giving medical supplies to the local nationals and helping assemble schools. But a lot of people don't get to see these things," he said.

Charpentier also said that he is comforted in knowing

that he and his unit are prepared for the mission in Iraq.

"I'm 100 percent sure we're ready for this deployment. The quality of training we've received – especially during Mojave Viper – has prepared us completely."

"When I was with 1/7, we did the same type of training, but the Marines in 1/3 seem to take it to heart. It's important, no matter how long, boring or uncoordinated the training seems, every Marine was humble enough to take in what they're being taught and use it, because it could save another Marine's, Sailor's or Iraqi's life."

Staff Sergeant Robert L.

Lytle, infantry unit leader, described Charpentier as an aggressive leader.

"One thing that makes him such a great leader is the fact that he's been to Iraq twice and is able to tell his junior Marines what to expect," said the native of Asheville, N.C. "He can be tough at times, but it's for their well-being. They may not appreciate it now, but when they come home alive they will."

Lytle said he knows Charpentier will do well in his upcoming deployment with 1/3 because he has the experience and knows what to expect.

"I've known Charpentier

for a long time. His ability to be tactical during training and in theater and then be able to turn it off and be a loving family man is a trait to be admired," the 28-year-old added. "He seems to be a great husband and father as well as a great Marine, and I think he balances it very well."

Charpentier said that he will look forward to seeing his family again when he returns from this deployment.

"I don't know what I'm going to do after this deployment," he added. "But I know I plan on staying in the Marine Corps until they kick me out or I die. Whichever comes first."

Sergeant strives to be efficient, compassionate

Christine Cabalo
Photojournalist

Sergeant Selena Maxwell has been working in the aviation field and with helicopters since her first tour with the Marines in 1999. Now, after working outside the Corps, she is again working with Marines aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

Maxwell left the Corps for a job with the National Guard, working with their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, but returned to K-Bay to work as a crew chief for Marine Heavy Squadron 362. Maxwell said the one thing she loves about working at K-Bay with the Marines is the sound of the CH-53D Sea Stallions taking off.

One of the pilots who works with her describes her as a very courageous person.

"She's come back to do something that's not easy," admitted Capt. Nicholas Turner, pilot. "She knows how difficult it is to be a crew chief."

Maxwell, a native of Baton Rouge, La., said she doesn't really have a favorite type of aircraft. She just enjoys working with helicopters.

"Hawks (UH-60) were really fun to use," she said. "They are fast and maneuverable, but the (CH-53) deltas are just pure muscle."

Her love of helicopters took her to far off corners of the world. While in the National Guard, the sergeant was stationed in Kuwait where the squadron she was assigned to provided aerial support and brought in supplies and provided transportation for high-ranking officials.

"During one mission we flew to Babylon, Iraq," Maxwell said, when asked about memorable events during her yearlong deployment.

"It was really neat to see the



Christine Cabalo

Sergeant Selena Maxwell, crew chief, Marine Heavy Squadron 362, stands next to the CH-53D Sea Stallion she is assigned to aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. Maxwell recently re-joined the Marine Corps after serving in the National Guard for three years.

city because of its importance in history."

In 2005, while with the Guard, her squadron provided disaster relief for Mississippi residents after Hurricane Katrina. The helicopter she was crew chief for was among more than 60 aircraft that provided support for relief efforts. The native of Baton Rouge said her squadron's missions involved delivering supplies to small communities.

Maxwell said she was surprised when she received a letter that recognized her efforts as crew chief for missions flown in support of Katrina disaster relief.

"Apparently I was the only blonde crew chief — that's how they knew it was for me," she said. "I got a letter from a 5-year-old girl thanking me for helping."

She said her duties were particularly difficult to execute during

supply runs to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and that it was difficult to be efficient and compassionate during the runs.

"People just wanted to talk to you any time you landed," the crew chief said. "You're trying to get all of that food in the aircraft unloaded as quickly as you can; because the faster you can get the food out and get back up in the air, the faster you could get to more people."

Crewmembers recognize Maxwell's good qualities and applaud her for them.

"As a crew chief, you can't say enough good things about her," said Turner. "She's got so much experience. She does a very good job, works hard, and doesn't mind getting dirty."

The former UH-60 crew chief said she's happy to be back at K-Bay



Christine Cabalo

Maxwell opens a panel to inspect a CH-53D Sea Stallion's engine. The Baton Rouge, La., native conducts routine maintenance checks on her helicopter as part of her responsibility as a crew chief.

and enjoys working with the Marines again. Maxwell said the time she has spent in the military has established the foundation for the bond she has with those she works for and with.

Maxwell said that it is difficult for her to watch as Marines and

Sailors prepare for deployment to Iraq, but she admires how well her squadron pulls together.

"You learn as you go," she said, when asked if she had any advice for those deploying. "You just need to get up and do your job every day."

Movie review: ‘300’



Cpl. Ryan Trevino
Community Relations Chief

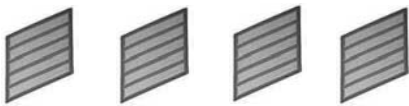
Editor's note: Each week Hawaii Marine's own film critic Cpl. Ryan Trevino will provide readers with in-depth reviews and unbiased ratings of a film currently in theaters or one of the many classics of yesterday.

The rating system requires some explanation before you get started. If the film being reviewed is currently available for rent or purchase it will be

assigned a certain number of “microwaves” on a scale of one to four to rate its “reheat factor.”

If the film being reviewed is in theaters, it will be assigned a certain number of service stripes on a scale from one to four.

In other words, the more microwaves or service stripes the film receives, the better and more entertaining it is to watch.



Score: 4 out of 4 service stripes

At the start of each new year, a film comes along and undeniably sets the standard for which the rest of the films released that year must strive to beat. Not only is “300” that movie for 2007, I believe it has set the standard for films for the rest of the decade.

Director Zack Snyder adapted graphic novelist Frank Miller’s novel “300” for the screen. He remained true to the original feel of the novel, but added a splash of cinematic elements only a creative director can provide. The look of the film is simply mesmerizing. It provided the viewer a glance into a world of intrigue by way of stunning visuals using cutting-edge techniques that can only originate from the ingenious mind of Frank Miller (Sin City). The film has an over-the-top comic

book feel, so those looking for realism won’t find it in this movie. However, those looking for two hours worth of top-notch entertainment need look no further.

The story followed a contingency of 300 Spartan warriors, led by King Leonidas (Gerald Butler), who set out to stop the horde of Persian soldiers advancing quickly on the city of Sparta. Before an effective Greek Army was raised to battle the hundreds of thousands of Persian soldiers, led by King Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro), Leonidas makes it his personal mission to lead this elite group to their glorious deaths in order to stop the massacre the Persians wished to reign down upon the Greeks.

The 300 Spartans lured the Persian Army into the Hot Gates of Thermopylae where the determined Spartan soldiers started to repel the sheer size and force of the Persians. Xerxes, frustrated that his army cannot advance past the Spartans, used every resource he had in his arsenal against them. He advanced Rhino and Elephant calvaries, which were easily cut down by the Spartans. He even sent in a battalion of his elite troops known as the “Immortals,” but still, to no avail. The mighty Spartan warriors, who are trained to kill and die gloriously in battle from birth, fought off the advancing waves of evil menace, one at a time.

This may seem unbelievable to most, but to

see firsthand how the Spartans fought was truly amazing to witness. A Spartan soldier, by himself, was determined and deadly, but putting him with a cohesive unit made up of 300 others just like him was truly a force to be reckoned with. The Spartan’s only objective was to kill as many enemies as possible before dying. As you can imagine, this made for great cinema for all you action-lovers out there. This film didn’t give you a chance to catch your breath. Its intensity and gory-battle scenes were unparalleled to date.

The fight sequences were nothing like I’ve ever seen before. They were truly the most innovative since the “Matrix” trilogy. Frame speeds slow down and speeds up as the mighty Spartans sliced and diced their way through thousands of Persians, with little consequence. For every 500 Persians they slaughtered, they only lost one of their own. I was careful not to blink during any of the battle scenes – too scared to miss a single second of the intense and gory action on the screen.

The Base Theater on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, was lucky enough to obtain a copy of the film, which they used to show a special screening of this film to service members here a week prior to its nationwide release. If you weren’t in that long line of people waiting for a free ticket to this movie, then you missed out. You’ll just have to catch it in theaters today.

ON THE MENU AT ANDERSON HALL

Friday <i>Lunch</i> Oven roast beef Baked tuna & noodles Steamed rice French fried cauliflower Vegetable combo Brown gravy Chilled horseradish Banana coconut cream pie Chocolate chip cookies Carrot cake w/cream cheese frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lime/strawberry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Country bar</i> <i>Dinner</i> Sauerbraten Baked knockwurst w/sauerkraut Scalloped potatoes Noodles Jefferson Green beans w/mushrooms Creole summer squash Brown gravy Desserts: Same as lunch	Sunday <i>Dinner</i> Beef pot pie Baked ham Baked macaroni & cheese Club spinach Cauliflower au gratin Cream gravy Bread pudding w/lemon sauce Vanilla cream pie Vanilla cookies Pineapple upside-down cake Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/orange gelatin Monday <i>Lunch</i> Teriyaki chicken Salisbury steak Mashed potatoes Steamed rice Simmered carrots Simmered lima beans Brown gravy Pumpkin pie Easy choc. cake w/frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/strawberry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Pasta</i> <i>Dinner</i> Roast turkey Oven roast beef Pork fried rice Parsley buttered potatoes Green beans w/mushrooms Simmered corn Brown gravy Pumpkin pie Chocolate cookies	Choc. cake w/chocolate frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Strawberry/strawberry gelatin Tuesday <i>Lunch</i> Sweet Italian sausage Veal parmesan Cheese ravioli Spaghetti noodles Simmered asparagus Italian blend vegetables Meat sauce Strawberry glazed cream pie Brownies Devil’s food cake w/frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Cherry/lime gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Taco</i> <i>Dinner</i> Swiss steak w/tomato sauce Lemon baked fish Lyonnaise potatoes Steamed rice Southern style green beans Vegetable combo Brown gravy Desserts: Same as lunch Wednesday <i>Lunch</i> Baked ham Chili macaroni Candied sweet potatoes Grilled cheese sandwich French fried okra Cauliflower au gratin Bread pudding w/lemon sauce Peanut butter brownie	Banana cake w/butter cream frosting Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Orange/raspberry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Hot dog & sausage</i> <i>Dinner</i> Baked stuffed pork chops Turkey pot pie Calico corn Simmered peas and carrots Steamed rice Mashed potatoes Brown gravy Desserts: same as lunch Thursday <i>Lunch</i> Cantonese spareribs Baked tuna & noodles Shrimp fried rice Corn on the cob Club spinach Corn bread dressing Brown gravy Lemon chiffon pie Snicker-doodle cookies German chocolate cake Vanilla/chocolate cream pudding Lime/strawberry gelatin <i>Specialty bar: Deli bar</i> <i>Dinner</i> Swedish meatballs Caribbean chicken breast Steamed rice Paprika butter potatoes Simmered brussels sprouts Simmered summer squash Chicken gravy Desserts: Same as lunch
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MARINE MAKEPONO

HAWAIIAN FOR “MARINE BARGAINS”

MISCELLANEOUS

O’Sullivan oak entertainment center. Little Tikes bouncy house. Silver and gold baker’s rack. Glass shelves. \$75 each item. Call 664-4972.

Gas grill with cover \$50 or best offer. Sportscard collection containing all sports. Best offer for entire collection. Call 254-9363.

MOTORCYCLES

2006 Honda CR-85 Dirtbike. Barely ridden, super condition. Leaving island. Gear included. \$3,000 OBO. Call 265-4457.

WANTED

Mother’s helper wanted. Care of 10-month-old with in-home mom and light housework. Enthusiasm for children a must. Call Barb at 254-4175.

FOR RENT

One bedroom plus den. Bay view with shopping mall and theater just minutes away. Private entrance with two-car parking. Washer and dryer; 1,000 square feet plus lanai. All utilities included. Cable and internet ready. \$1,850 per month. Call 381-7231.

Ads are accepted from active duty and retired military personnel, their family members and MCB Hawaii civil service employees.

Those interested in advertising must bring a valid DoD-issued ID to the Hawaii Marine Office.

Makepono may be used only for noncommercial classified ads containing items of personal property.

Forms may be filled out Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office located in Building 216 aboard Marine Corps Base, Kaneohe Bay.

MOVIE TIME

Prices: Friday and Saturday 7:15 p.m., shows are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Sunday matinee is shown at 2 p.m. Shows are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Evening showings on Sunday and Wednesday are at 6:30 p.m. and late shows are shown Friday and Saturday at 9:45 p.m. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For ticket pricing, the Base Theater Box Office defines an adult as a patron 12 and older and defines a child as a patron from 6 to 11. Children 5 and younger are admitted free of charge. Parents must purchase tickets for R-rated movies in person at the box office for children 16 and younger. Patrons must present their military identification card when purchasing tickets. Call 254-7642 for recorded information.

Sneak Preview Policy: One hour and 45 minutes prior to the movie, tickets will be issued to first priority patrons waiting in line, then second and third priority patrons.

In an effort to prevent piracy, the following security measures will be enforced on base for sneak preview screenings: bag checks, confiscation of cameras or cell phones with picture taking capability (items will be returned after screening), magnetometer wand, audience scanning with night vision goggles during screening.

The Base Theater and film companies thank you in advance for your cooperation and hope you will enjoy the show. For recorded information, call the Base Theater at 254-7642.

Arthur & the Invincibles (PG)
Freedom Writers (PG13)
Dream Girls (PG13)
The Hitcher (R)
Arthur & the Invincibles (PG)
Alpha Dog (R)
Dream Girls (PG13)
Dream Girls (PG13)
The Hitcher (R)

Today at 7:15 p.m.
Today at 9:45 p.m.
Saturday at 7:15 p.m.
Saturday at 10 p.m.
Sunday at 2 p.m.
Sunday at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Friday at 7:15 p.m.
Friday at 10 p.m.

MCCS Briefs

www.mccshawaii.com

Now through Saturday

Register for Spring Adventure Camp with Youth Activities

The camp is open to all military families and Department of Defense dependants.

A \$25 membership fee is required for participation. Program fees are based on a sliding scale. Copies of a Leave Earning Statement and shot record are required. Registration is held in Building 1090-B from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For information, call Virginia Tamura at 254-7610.

Now through Thursday

Black Women: Achievements Against the Odds

Celebrate Women's History Month with this educational exhibit at the Base Library.

The exhibit is open to all active duty, family members and DoD employees.

For information, call Merri Fernandez at 254-7624.

Friday

Island Tour

Participants will meet at Building 216, room 59 to tour the island from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The tour is open at no cost to all active duty and their family members.

Reservations are required.

The next tour is April 13.

For information, call Marine and Family Services at 257-7790 or 257-7787.

Saturday

Celebrating Women Children's Program

Enjoy a story time that focuses on notable women and make a great craft tomorrow at the Base Library.

This program is open to all active duty, family members and DoD employees.

For information, call Merri Fernandez at 254-7624.

Now through March 31

Art Contest

The Military Child Education Coalition is sponsoring "The Art of Being a Military Child" art contest. Selected submissions in the visual arts will be featured in art exhibits at the coalition's annual conference to be held in Kansas City. Art may also appear in the conference program, annual calendar, and in the coalition's magazine and other publications. Submission deadline is March 31.

For information, log on to www.militarychild.org.

Listeners sometimes make the best communicators

Mike Jernigan
U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific

I saw what I call a “professional” in the office last week. He, by position and experience, was a leader. I should have been able to learn much from him. The sad fact was that I could not think of anything else but when I could escape his office. The problem was that this gentleman was a four-wheel-drive talker; I had no opportunity to participate in the conversation as he ran over any chance I had to speak. He liked to listen to his conversation engine purr and forgot that I came to see him because I had specific questions. He also forgot one of the key responsibilities of a leader – leaders need to listen.

General Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is fond of saying that listening is a key part of being a good leader. Listening can be defined as “hearing with thinking” and is vital to leaders for several reasons. The first benefit is the obvious – gaining information required to do one's job. Listening is how leaders maintain their situational awareness and gather the data required to make decisions.

Imagine the manager of a maintenance shop dealing with the hundreds of separate pieces of information his employees and customers give him. One mechanic tells him that the fuel pump is bad on a certain truck and needs to be replaced. A customer tells the manager that she hears a knocking sound every time she turns left. Another employee tells the manager that the inventory is short air filters. If the manager listens to what each of these people has to say

(and takes the appropriate actions), then it is another routine day in the garage. Fuel pumps are replaced, alignments are corrected, and inventory is maintained. However, if the manager refuses to listen to what he has been told, the shop does not run effectively. Vehicles are not correctly repaired, customers are disappointed, and most severely, employee trust in the leader is eroded. The same inefficiencies happen to leaders in any field who do not listen to what is happening around them.

Listening has its obvious tactical benefits. It has particular value for Marines in the defense. Marines know that any defensive position is not complete without observation or listening posts. At least one Marine has earned the Medal of Honor, in part, by listening.

September 29th, 1950, Private 1st Class Stanley Christianson was serving with 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, in Seoul, Korea. He was in a listening post forward of his platoon's main defensive position. As he was listening, Christianson heard the enemy begin their attack. He sent another Marine back to warn the rest of the platoon. His Medal of Honor citation explains the scene: “...without orders, he remained in his position and, with full knowledge that he would have slight chance of escape, fired relentlessly at oncoming hostile troops ... accounting for 7 enemy dead before ... his position was overrun and he was fatally struck down.”

Christianson's actions gave his platoon the time to reinforce their defenses and repel the attack of a much larger force. Certainly his bravery, ini-

tiative and loyalty all played their part in his heroic action; but had he not been listening, the attack may have surprised his platoon and been more successful.

Like Christianson, leaders of all types can use listening to discover tactical opportunities to be exploited.

The other value of listening is that it is part of communicating. Effective communication is a leader's responsibility. Leaders spend much of their time talking and teaching. Speaking is only one half of the communication process. The other half, of course, is listening. Communication is possible only if the listener is involved. Take the safety briefs on airplanes, for example. Typically there is much talking but little listening. The flight attendant starts the typical: "place the buckle end of your seat belt ... blah, blah ..." while all the passengers ignore her and concentrate on discovering which movie will be playing on the flight.

Once I flew on an airline known for having an unconventional safety brief delivery. The flight attendant started the brief with: "Good morning sports fans. Please listen to me, as I'm about to tell you things that you need to know if the pilot decides today to test his acrobatic skills ..." That got the passengers' attention. Everyone listened and paid close attention as he continued to give the standard safety brief with wit and humor. He had made the transition from speaking to communicating, because we were listening. He became a leader who I would follow out of the aircraft in the event of an emergency situation. I was much more likely to trust him

as a leader than other attendants who give the same safety brief a hundred times with all the enthusiasm reading out loud the “Jones” section of the phonebook. Leaders need to listen, otherwise communication doesn't occur.

Perhaps the real value of listening is for leaders to gain feedback on the effectiveness of their personal leadership style.

Everyone has professional blind spots. Leaders teach and train those who follow them and help correct these blind spots. This prime responsibility of leadership is typically known as “mentoring.” Yet most organizations do not have formal mechanisms for leaders to receive feedback from subordinates on their own performance.

Effective leaders understand that the only means available is to create opportunities for the team to give feedback, genuinely listen, and consider what can be improved. Some ways leaders can discover professional blind spots is to use an anonymous suggestion box, have the team pretend the roles are reversed and give performance appraisals to the boss, or even take a trusted advisor to lunch and ask for comments.

The famous basketball coach John Wooden in his book, “Wooden: A Lifetime of Observations and Reflections on and off the Court,” says it well. He said, “Listen to those under your supervision. Really listen. Don't act as though you're listening and let it go in one ear and out the other. Faking it is worse than not doing it all. A good motto is ‘Others, too, have brains.’”

Effective leaders listen and learn from “others with brains.”

Motorcycle safety encouraged for summer

Safety Center
The Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned

As summer grows near and the days get longer, motorcycles are dusted off and ridden more often; hence the need for increased safety.

The Marine Corps Motorcycle Safety Programs need to be fully implemented. These standards are designed to protect the lives of Marines, Sailors and civilians who work for the Marine Corps.

Riders are highly encouraged to take advantage of available resources. Motorcycle safety courses are available at no cost to all Department of Defense personnel.

The required Basic Riders Course is a two-day course that involves classroom and ride time and covers basic control of motorcycle skills. The Experienced Riders Course is a refresher course that lasts about five hours. For enrollment details, contact Base Safety aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay at 257-1830.

There are many reasons for wanting to ride a motorcycle — and there are motorcycles and riding styles for almost everyone.

But the prime consideration in deciding to ride is a decision to accept the risk inherent to motorcycling.

Although the risk can be lowered, motorcycling is still a high-risk activity. And, if motorcycles are involved in an accident, there is a high chance of personal injury.

Statistics show that unlicensed riders are more likely to be involved in a crash. The real reason licensed riders are less likely to crash is because of their attitude – not their driver's license status. Riders who take motorcycling seriously ride legally, ride sober, and try to continuously improve their riding skills. These individuals are more likely to have long and happy riding careers. It's all about attitude.

Often, it's easier to learn from a professionally trained stranger than from even the best-intentioned friend or relative.

According to Marine Corps Order 5100.19E, the following Personal Protective Equipment is mandatory for everyone operating or riding as a passenger on a motorcycle on all DoD installations and for all military personnel who operate or ride on a motorcycle off installations, on and off road, in uniform or in civilian clothes.

Eye Protection

Impact or shatter-resistant goggles (enclosed on the sides) or full-face shield attached to the helmet. A windshield, eyeglasses, or fairing alone

is not considered proper eye protection.

Helmet

A properly fastened (under the chin) protective helmet that meets the standards of Snell Memorial Foundation, the American National Standards Institute, or Department of Transportation regulations.

Full-fingered gloves or mittens

Long-legged trousers

Long-sleeved jacket

It is encouraged that the jacket be a protective motorcycle safety jacket (with recommended shoulder and elbow pads.) Marines are authorized to wear this jacket while in uniform.

Footwear

Hard-soled shoes or boots with heels are required. The shoe must cover the ankle. Leather is the preferred material for the boots or over-the-ankle shoes.

An approved reflective vest

A mesh fabric vest that is bright yellow, international orange or lime-green with reflective strips front and back shall be worn by riders as the outermost garment. Black reflective vests are no longer authorized. When backpacks are worn, it is recommended that a reflective running belt be wrapped around the backpack.

Key takeaways

Get trained and licensed; wear protective gear; ride unimpaired; ride within your limits; and be a lifelong learner.

Helmets are estimated to be 37 percent effective in preventing fatal injuries.



File photo

U.S. Naval Academy Men's Glee Club to perform in Honolulu

News Release
U.S. Pacific Fleet

The U.S. Naval Academy Men's Glee Club is offering an evening of fine music and entertainment during two public performances March 17 and 18 in Honolulu as part of their Spring Break tour.

The 75-member glee club from Annapolis, Md., is one of America's premier choral groups. The program will feature sea chanties, barbershop harmony, popular music of the past and present, patriotic selections, music of the theater and fine classical music.

The first performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 17 at St. Andrew's Cathedral at Queen Emma Square. The second show is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 18 at the Central Union Church, 1660 South Beretania St.

The Men's Glee Club is the largest and most active musical organization at the Naval Academy and presents more than 100 performances annually. Among the more notable appearances have been concerts at Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.; Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas; Copley Symphony Hall, San Diego; and a concert with the Boston Pops at Avery Fisher Hall, N.Y.

“We are looking forward to bringing this nationally acclaimed Glee Club back to Hawaii,” said Dr. Aaron Smith, the Naval Academy's director of choral activities. “We performed here in March of 2001 to very receptive audiences, and I am anticipating large crowds who will want to hear these performances by the Glee Club.”

“The purpose of this trip is to provide performing opportunities for our midshipmen and to share with audiences an evening of fine music the entire family can enjoy,” said Don Nelson, the Naval Academy's assistant director of admissions and Men's Glee Club tour director.

There will be a \$20 admission fee to defray trip expenses for this nonprofit group. Advance tickets are available through military Morale, Welfare & Recreation ticket outlets for a discounted price of \$18 at Pearl Harbor (Bloch Arena), The Navy Exchange Mall, Barbers Point and Naval Security Group Activity Kunia. Tickets for the performance at St. Andrews Cathedral will also be available at the Cathedral on concert night.

For additional information, call (410) 293-2439 or contact Sue Carter at teamcarter@hawaii.nrl.com or phone 235-4488, after 6 p.m.; or Derek Frasz at derekfrasz@netscape.net.

Space Camp Scholarships available

News Release
Marine Corps Community Services

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — Applications are being accepted for the 2007 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship.

Children of active duty service members, in grades six through nine, can apply for the scholarship which was created by the Military Child Education Coalition in memory of Bernard Curtis Brown II, the 11-year-old son of Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Bernard Curtis Brown, who was killed on Sept. 11, 2001, when the hijacked airliner was crashed into the Pentagon.

Located in Huntsville, Ala., Space Camp offers a unique, hands-on approach to learning

outside the classroom. Activities include simulated Space Shuttle missions, training simulators, rocket building and launches, scientific experiments, and lectures on the past, present, and future of space exploration.

The scholarship covers tuition, meals, lodging, program materials, and transportation, for a five-day program.

To apply, students must submit a scholarship application, along with a hand-written essay stating why they should be selected, and two letters of recommendation from someone other than a relative.

Those applying should ensure that their essays include details of patriotism, community service, future goals and "after camp" intentions.

The 2007 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship application can be found by visiting the Military Child Education Web site at <http://www.militarychild.org/Scholarship.asp>.

The deadline for submission of applications, hand-written essays, and letters of recommendation is April 2.

Completed applications should be sent to:

Military Child Education Coalition, 108 East FM 2410, Suite D, Harker Heights, Texas 76548

For more information, contact Kathleen Facon, Section Head, Children, Youth and Teen Programs (MRZ-3) at 703-784-9553 or kathleen.facon@usmc.mil.



Spouses and children of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 Marines and Sailors paint banners at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, during “Banner Day” held March 3 at Hangar 101. The event was coordinated by the 2/3 Key Volunteer Network to give families the opportunity to make signs for their returning Marine or Sailor.

Key Volunteer Network helps families adapt

Story by
Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

Photos by
Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland
Press Chief

Being alone when a loved one is deployed or getting married to a service member can be a stressful time for some, but there is a program dedicated to helping military families adjust — the Key Volunteer Network.

The KVN is the backbone of family team building and is an integral part of the commander’s official family readiness program, according to Nancie A. Sullivan, marketing research analyst, Personal and Family Readiness Division, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps.

“Key Volunteers provide information, referral and support to families within the unit and serve as the primary communication link between the commanding officer and unit families,” said Sullivan, “and the Lifestyle Insight, Networking, Knowledge and Skills program offers an orientation to the Marine Corps lifestyle for spouses.

“These programs include spouse-to-spouse mentoring and small group discussions on real life tips, and information on Marine Corps’ culture and resources to help manage the demands of the Marine Corps life.”

Being part of the Key Volunteer Network includes duties such as welcoming new families, accurately passing specific information from the commanding officer to families, providing accurate information and referrals and offering moral support during difficult times, according to Eileen E. McCallum, Key Volunteer Program coordinator, Marine Corps Family Team Building, Marine Corps Community Services Hawaii.

McCallum said there are approximately 246 active key volunteers on Marine Corps Base Hawaii who work for units and squadrons on base.

“If anyone wants to join, they would contact us and take the training with me, and then decide if they want to be part of



Lynsy Rivers ties the top corner of a banner, while Cassandra Young kneels down to secure a banner to the fence so the sheet can air dry.

the program,” she said. “There are five modules from Headquarters Marine Corps that are taught in a three-day period.

McCallum said the KVN is a very good program that plays an important role in family readiness.

According to McCallum, the network takes care of families when spouses are deployed and gives families correct information about when the unit will return.

“It’s important for people to know how important this program is,” she said. “Knowledge is power, and with that (key volunteers) can help other spouses.”

Headquarters Marine Corps is currently conducting an online survey to better understand and assess the deployment readiness of Marines and families during irregular wartime operations.

“The survey is part of a larger process to assess the Marine Corps Family Team Building program,” said Sullivan. “Headquarters and installation program managers will take part in the rigorous process of documenting the current program and conducting benchmark analysis of our sister service programs and other civilian

support agencies with the goal of developing a plan for improving program effectiveness.”

To take the survey log on to www.usmc.mccs.org/surveys, or call 257-2410 to request more information on how to join the Key Volunteer Network.



Andrew Stephens, 10, paints a welcome home sign for his father, Gunnery Sgt. Larry Stephens, maintenance control, HMH-363. The “Red Lions” are due to come home from a seven-month deployment to Iraq later this month.

Storytime with ‘Famous Amos’



Wally Amos, founder of “Famous Amos” chocolate chip cookies, reads aloud to children at the Base Library on Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Feb. 28. The entrepreneur was aboard the base to encourage children to read.

Christine Cabalo

Hawaiians celebrate closing of Makahiki season

**Story and Photos by
Cpl. Ryan Trevino**
Community Relations Chief

A group of Hawaiian families stayed aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Saturday and Sunday to celebrate the closing of the Makahiki season, which lasted approximately four months.

The families have connections to the Mokapu Peninsula through genealogical descents and have been coming to the base for the past seven years to conduct ceremonies and play traditional Hawaiian games and sports in honor of the Hawaiian god “Lono,” the god of harvest.

The Makahiki season is similar to Thanksgiving, except that it lasts for four months instead of just one day. It is a time when, traditionally, Hawaiians would not work, but before they could transition to a time of festivities and play rather than labor, they had to offer gifts to Lono.

Makahiki season is also a time when war between the tribes of the Hawaiian Islands is strictly forbidden.

During this time, members of Hawaiian families dress in traditional garb and perform ancient rituals and ceremonies associated with Makahiki to pay homage to their ancestors and continue traditions

that have been around for thousands of years.

This is not something many Marines and Sailors get a chance to experience during their tour here, said June Cleghorn, Cultural Resource manager for the base Environmental Compliance and Protection Department.

“You can’t see this in Waikiki,” said Cleghorn. “This gives the Marines here a snapshot of the more spiritual and cultural side of Hawaii.”

While the majority of Hawaiians came aboard base through the front gate, a group of Hawaiians paddled their canoes ashore near the cabanas.

Ceremonies were held, which were meant to show the change from one season to another, including playing traditional games and sports to celebrate the transition from one season to the next.

“(The ceremony) represents the turning over from one time to another,” said Donna Camvell, the coordinator of the event who has been organizing the event since it began on K-Bay seven years ago.

She said Makahiki is not only a time for the Hawaiian families to continue with ancient rituals and ceremonies, it is a way for two cultures to learn something from each other.

“It’s reflective of the kind of com-

munication efforts that we all need to strive for,” she said.

Camvell said she was pleased with the relationship her organization has with the base and was satisfied with the turnout to this year’s event.

Approximately 80 people came out to either participate in the ceremonies or as spectators.

“It gives all the people who live and work on the base a better understanding of what happened on this peninsula before the military arrived here,” added Cleghorn.

The Makahiki season will start up again around November, according to Camvell.

She said, “Until then, it’s back to work.”



Hawaiians, whose families have ties to the Mokapu Peninsula, perform an ancient ritual on the shores of Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.



A small group of Hawaiians paddle ashore at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Saturday to begin the ancient Hawaiian ceremony in celebration of the closing of Makahiki season — the Hawaiian harvest season. Members of the group offered gifts to the god "Lono" during the ceremony, which serves to keep the King and his men happy until the season starts up again later this year.



Hawaiian youths battle it out in a game of agility and balance during the closing ceremony of the Makahiki season. Many games and contests of this nature are played by the men to show off their skills as nimble and agile warriors.